

Alex Stapleton

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**From:** John Anderson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 11, 2010 2:45 PM  
**To:** John Anderson  
**Subject:** thailand travel stories

Greetings. I have the pleasure of doing media work for one of the great vacation destinations of the world – Thailand, where two cities (Bangkok and Chiang Mai) recently were voted the No. 1 and No. 2 best cities in the world by the readers of Travel + Leisure Magazine.

And why not? Luxurious hotels in every price range, fabulous food, great beaches, wonderful shopping and cultural sites, reasonable prices, rock-solid infrastructure, generous and friendly people. More than anything, these are what drive the amazing success story in Thailand, where economic growth this year is projected to be 6.5% to 7.5%, and where exports last month surged the most in 18 years to reach their highest level ever.

Thailand went through a lot of turmoil this past spring, but it has done an amazing turn around. In fact, despite the March-May unrest – which was confined to a small part of Bangkok -- tourism arrivals in Thailand were up for the first half of 2010 by 13 percent. This is a testament to the extraordinary resiliency of Thailand's travel and hospitality industries, and to the special place that Thailand has in peoples' hearts.

It's a great time to visit Thailand, and a great time to write about it. The Thai Tourism Authority has volumes of information and pictures they can provide if you are interested in highlighting Thailand – be it a simple blurb or an ambitious feature. And I can help by funneling information and arranging interviews with Thai authorities. And I am happy to field other requests you may have. Don't be shy.

If you're interested, my contacts are below. Best Regards, John Anderson

*The Podesta Group provides representation for the country of Thailand. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

John Ward Anderson | Principal

**Podesta Group** | 1001 G Street, NW Suite 900 East, Washington, DC 20001

202.448.5224 (d) | 202.460.6350 (c) | [janderson@podesta.com](mailto:janderson@podesta.com) | [www.podesta.com](http://www.podesta.com)

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